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NEWSLETTER

101-1234

16 November 1989

Washington

DC

RADAR FOR VALLEY AIRPORTS. There is no greater satisfaction in life than to see a task completed after years of labor; to watch events swing in your direction as a result of sheer determination and plain old fashioned hard work. That's how your Congressman feels now that a special Airport Surveillance Radar system (ASR-9) has been installed in Harlingen.

For nearly 17 years we have been involved in a monumental effort to secure a modern radar system to guide and control air traffic coming in and out of the Rio Grande Valley. There have been far too many near misses in the air and too many planes off course to deny that a radar air traffic control system was needed. Safety for the flying public demands no less.

Last week, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration came down to Harlingen and joined local dignitaries in a ceremony to inaugurate an ASR-9 system which will serve all three airports in our area (McAllen, Harlingen and Brownsville).

Believe me after 17 years of work I wanted to join everyone in Harlingen for this ceremony but my Washington legislative schedule made this impossible, much as I would have enjoyed the making of history in the Valley. Instead, the Mayor Pro-Tem of Harlingen, James Matz, was kind enough to read a statement I had prepared to mark this great event.

Those who have lived in the Valley for a long time know that the FAA was not ready to grant us our radar system simply for the asking. For well over a decade the FAA insisted that none of the airports in our region could show enough passenger traffic to justify a radar system. We kept coming back to the FAA telling it that all three airports are in close proximity to one another and the combined passenger boardings and aircraft landings made a radar system indispensable.

Your Congressman testified before Committees of Congress, met for years on end with federal officials and ultimately requested \$8.8 million from Congress to buy the radar system despite the federal government's hesitation to approve the radar through its regular budgetary process. At long last, the equipment has been purchased and we are in operation.

Our success would not have been possible without the staunch support of the cities of Harlingen, McAllen and Brownsville--and particularly the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce led by our good friend David Alex.

We look back on this and wish it had not taken so long to accomplish, but we were fighting a battle that was uphill all the way. The powers above said the Valley didn't need a radar system for its airports, and we worked double overtime to prove that we needed it. There is nothing sweeter than seeing victory on her wings.

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THANKSGIVING DAY is just around the corner and we want to take a moment to highlight a great idea for the dinner table. Last week the **Washington Post** newspaper carried a multiple-page advertisement sponsored by a local supermarket chain (the "Giant" Food Stores) which extolled the virtues of old fashioned southwestern and Tex-Mex cooking during Thanksgiving time.

We can't think of anything finer than a traditional southwestern menu on Thanksgiving Day. The Giant Food Stores of Washington felt the same way and offered a number of traditional southwestern recipes. For those who love to cook, we reprint the recipe for Cornbread Chorizo Stuffing:

1 pound chorizo sausage (or
other Spanish or hot Italian
sausage can be substituted)
1 stick (¼ pound) butter
4 tablespoons oil
2 cups diced onion
1 cup diced celery
2 carrots, peeled and diced
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1 jalapeno or serrano chili,
seeds and ribs removed and
finely chopped
2 cups chicken stock
½ teaspoon dried thyme
½ teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon salt
¼ to ½ teaspoon cayenne
pepper
¼ cup chopped cilantro

16 ounces cornbread stuffing
mix (2 small bags)

Crumble the sausage into a large skillet, removing it from the casing if necessary, and break it up into small pieces with a fork as it browns. Brown well, then add the butter and oil to the pan. Add the onion, celery, carrot, garlic and jalapeno and saute over low heat, stirring often, for 15 minutes. Add the stock to the pan and bring to a boil over high heat. Simmer for 5 minutes. Add the remaining ingredients to the pan and toss to combine well.

You can stuff a 15-20 pound turkey, and any remaining stuffing may be baked in a dish alongside the turkey.

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THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION has recently made a \$5,000 grant to the Texas A&M University Department of Biology for the purpose of supporting on-going research in **sensory avoidance behavior in sea turtles**.

We take a moment in this letter to express our appreciation to the Foundation for making this grant in our name. The Foundation wrote me and said it wished to acknowledge my dedicated support for preservation of marine resources and fisheries by offering this grant to Texas A&M University.

I am honored to be mentioned in this respect and I am certain the scientists at Texas A&M will use this grant money with much gratitude as they continue their efforts to preserve and improve our marine resources.

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VISITORS FROM HOME. Roberto Juarez of Alice; Raul Salinas of Laredo; Victoria B. Davila of McAllen; Duane Atkinson of Tilden.

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